

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE15/074) - Wickham Point - Children separated from their parents - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 53) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many of the children at the Wickham Point detention centre have been separated from parents at any stage while they have been in the detention facility at Wickham Point?

Mr Windsor: I am not aware of cases of children being separated from their parents.

Mr Pezzullo: Sorry—for what length of period? Our current practice is to move children with their carers, guardians or parents. So when you say 'separated' do you mean with a family member in another place, say Nauru?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In another facility, yes.

Mr Pezzullo: So, within Australia, or where the parent or siblings are in an offshore place? Under any circumstance?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Under any circumstance.

Mr Pezzullo: Thank you. Unless Mr Windsor or Mr Outram have further and better particulars I think we will need to take that on notice. I think, generally speaking, the reason why it is such a large group in detention is because they tend to, in most cases, be settled or in the company of their siblings and their parents. But we will get precise information on notice.

*Answer:*

The Department seeks to accommodate members of family units together wherever operationally possible and it is standard practice for the nuclear family unit to be maintained.

Obtaining the requested information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources, as this information is not readily available in Department of Immigration and Border Protection Systems.